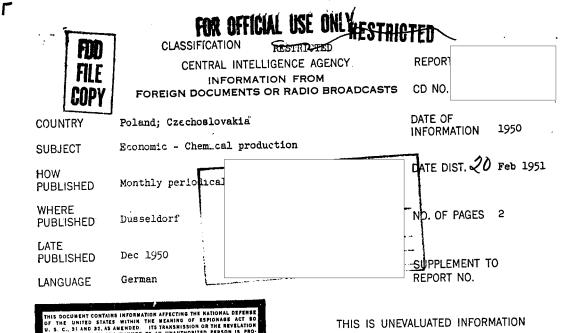
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SOURCE

Chemische Industrie, No 12, 1950.

CHEMICAL POTENTIAL OF POLAND AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Besides the Soviet Union, the only countries in the eastern bloc which have comparatively large chemical industries are Poland and Czechoslovakia. The two countries together have now achieved the production capacity of Italy.

Poland

Poland has great future prospects because of its rich coal resources and the chemical industry potential taken from Germany. One weakness is still the sulfuric acid industry, which, because of raw material difficulties, has achieved an output of only 300,000 tons a year, although there is a demand for 400,000 tons. The lack of sulfur-bearing ores is to be remedied by a projected plant which will work with gypsum as a basis. Apart from the sulfuric acid bottleneck, Poland's chemical industry's achievements are quite noteworthy, as may be seen in the following figures:

(Polish Chemical Production (in 1,000 tons)

	1937	1948	<u> 1949</u>
Calcium carbide	64	162	158
Fertilizers, total	428	628	·781
Calcium cyanamide	68	158	165
Nitrogen-calcium fertilizer (Saletrzak -	•		
mixture of ammonium nitrate and calcium carbonate)	19	130	103
Superphosphate	177	280	389

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Czechoslovakia

The value of Czechoslovak production is 20 percent lower than that of Poland. The manufacturing program, which is quite varied, includes heavy chemicals, tar distillation products, medicines, cosmetics, soap, candles, mineral pigments, lacquers, pencils, glue, cleaning and polishing agents, detergents, explosives, ammunition, artificial silk, and nitrogen products.

Recently, a widespread conversion has been in progress, aimed at forcing the manufacture of war goods at the expense of other groups of products. The heavy chemicals, explosives, tar distillation, and nitrogen products industries have been assigned larger quotas, while the cosmetic, soap, and detergent factories have been allotted only limited quantities of raw materials.

Although until now Czechoslovakia has had comparatively lively trade relations with the West, such traffic is to be restricted from now on. On the basis of a recently negotiated economic agreement between the USSR and Czechoslovakia, practically all exportable products manufactured in Czechoslovakia will be delivered to the USSR for the next 5 years. On the other hand, the USSR obligates itself to supply those raw materials and technical installations not in existence in Czechoslovakia.

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